

Title: **Impacts of Community- Based Fish Culture in Seasonal Floodplains on Livelihoods in Bangladesh**

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Abstract: This paper examines the impact of community based fish culture in seasonal floodplains on fish production, consumption, income and food security of the participating households in Bangladesh. About 30 percent households of the three project and control floodplains were randomly selected, from whom data were collected using longitudinal surveys on a quarterly and monthly basis for the years 2007 and 2008. Findings show that fish production, income and food security of the participating households have increased due to the adoption of an equitable and inclusive multi-stakeholder approach introduced by the project. Average fish production has increased to 443 kg/ha/yr. The introduced approach generated 37% and 68% higher of fishing to household income in the project sites in the first and second year respectively than the control sites. Per capita annual household fish consumption increased from 16.5 kg to 25.1kg/person/year in the intervention site, which is 44% higher than the control sites. Project interventions reduced the vulnerability of local beneficiaries, particularly of landless and poor fishers by generating additional fishing opportunity in the flood season for up to 6 months of the year. Indirect benefits of community based fish culture include reduced conflict; improved social capital and greater cooperation in the community. Promotion of the community based fish culture in seasonal floodplains may thus be a useful tool to bring about positive changes in the overall productivity and livelihood gains for poor people in Bangladesh.